AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTIONS REQUIREMENT U.S. Appln. No. 10/776,453

REMARKS

Restriction was required among the following two groups:

Group I. Claims 1-29, drawn to a end sealer shifting assembly,

Group II. Claim 30, drawn to method of forming an end seal.

Applicant elects claim Group I for prosecution.

In the accompanying claim amendments, an editorial amendment has been made in claim

6, and claim 20 has been revised to associate the heat element with the second jaw, and method

claim 30 has been made dependent on claim 1 such that upon allowance of claim 1, claim 30 will

be in condition for allowance as well. Applicant further reserves the right to file a divisional

application on the restricted method.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith.

Reconsideration and treatment of all pending claims is thus respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:

K

Dennis C. Rodgers, Reg. 32,936 1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, DC 20036 Telephone: 202/263-4300 Facsimile: 202/263-4329

Date: March 1, 2005